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MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

AUGUST 1979

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MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

MONTHLY REPORT

August 1979

STATE OF MONTANA

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Volume 9 Number 8

Produced by:
Research and Analysis
in cooperation with the
U. S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1. Civilian Labor Force - the number of persons 16 years and older, defined as employed or unemployed, excluding members of the Armed Forces.

2. Employed - those persons who work for pay or profit during a week or, as unpaid family workers, work 15 hours or more during a week. Also included as employed are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, including persons temporarily absent from a job due to illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, whether or not they were in a pay status during their time off.

3. Unemployment - the number of persons who, for an entire week, did not work at all, were able to work and available for work, and (1) were looking for work or (2) would have looked for work except that (a) they were waiting to return to a job from which they had been laid off, or (b) they were waiting to report to a new wage and salary job scheduled to start within the following 30 days (and were not in school during the week).

4. Unemployment Rate - the number of unemployed expressed as a percent of the civilian labor force.

5. Residence Data - a count of employment by where people live.

6. Establishment Data - a count of employment by where people work.

7. Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Series - to facilitate the evaluation of the labor force, recurrent yearly movements have been isolated and removed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics seasonal factor method.

8. Composite Index - an aggregate of six leading indicators. The indicators used are: Manufacturing - Employment, Average Weekly Hours, total Accessions and Layoffs; Average Weekly Initial Claims; and statewide Building Permits. A reverse trend was used for Layoffs and Average Weekly Initial Claims. This composite index is in no manner or form comparable to the United States composite index as published in "Business Conditions Digest", U. S. Department of Commerce.

9. Real Spendable Average Weekly Earnings of Private Nonagricultural Production Workers - represents the earnings of a hypothetical individual after deductions for State Income, Federal Income and Social Security taxes, and adjustment for change in purchasing power since 1967. This individual is assumed to be sole support for a family of four, earn the average weekly gross earnings of production workers in Montana's private nonagricultural industries, and take standard deductions on State and Federal income taxes. Taxes were computed using standard tax tables, and purchasing power was adjusted by deflating Spendable Earnings based on the national Consumer Price Index.

10. WIN - Work Incentive Program for Aid to Dependent Children recipients.

11. CETA - Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1974.

12. CETA-CEP - Concentrated Employment Program funded under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.

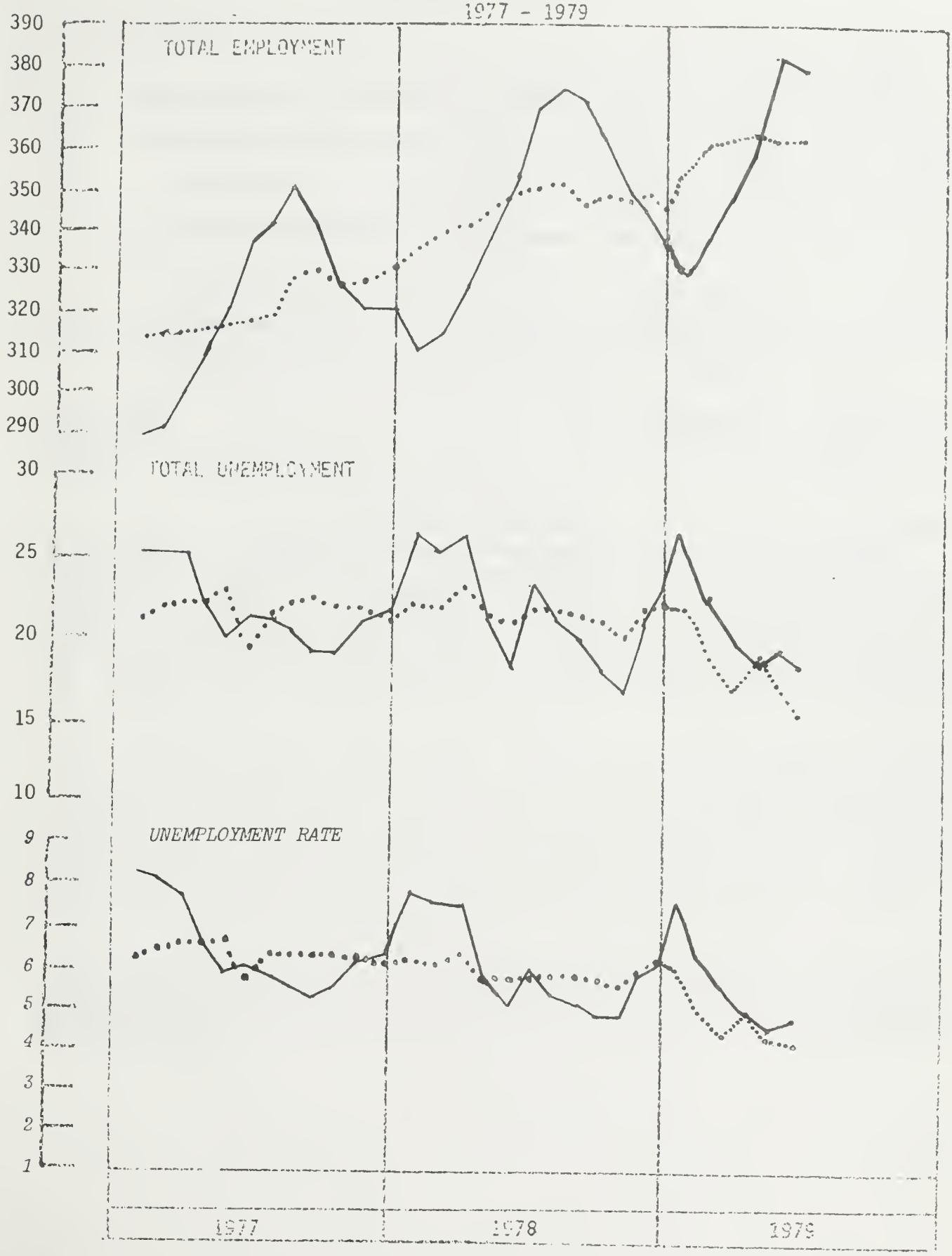
13. SMSA - Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area as determined by Office of Management and Budget. Must have a central city with population of 50,000 or more.

14. LMA - Labor Market Area as determined by the Montana Employment Security Division consists of a central city or cities with population of less than 50,000, and the economically integrated geographical area surrounding it.

MONTANA EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: _____)
(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: .....)

1977 - 1979



All Labor Force Statistics contained in this publication are in accordance with the Federal guidelines as established by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Methodology procedures use a household sample conducted in Montana on a monthly basis, called the Current Population Survey. These official statistics are used to allocate federal funding. Any questions concerning these figures should be directed to:

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* STATEWIDE HIGHLIGHTS *

Gains in employment were noted in all industrial sectors in the June to July transition this year. In comparison to last year's transition, this year's July gains occurred in industries different from the past. Although July's employment gains point to an expanding economy, economic conditions prevalent within the State take much away from an optimistic outlook. Mixed performance continues to keynote Montana's economy at this time.

The civilian labor force grew by 3,900 in July to a total of 404,300. Employment gains in June were 4,800 moving the count of employed to 387,100. Last year the civilian labor force totaled 396,500 while employment totaled 375,000.

Unemployment statistics report 17,200 out of work in July for a 4.2% rate of unemployment. In June, the count reports 18,100 out of work for a 4.5% rate of unemployment. July of last year had 21,500 out of work for a 5.4% rate of unemployment. These unemployment declines were anticipated as many students re-entering the labor force in June found employment.

In analyzing the June to July changes in employment for this year and last year, it was apparent that employment increases did not occur in the same industry groups. The trade sector normally hires for summer tourism during late June. Last year an increase of 1600 was noted. This year only a 500 increase was noted. The service sector experienced a gain of 900 this year with 700 of that gain occurring in the "other services" group. Employment in personal services fell by 100. Government experienced a gain of 1700 this year which compares to a drop of 200 last year. Nearly all of this gain occurred in federal government which normally experiences moderate gains of 500 to 600.

Those activities normally associated with tourism had less than seasonal employment gains. Generally, Montana experienced a 20% drop in tourism statewide. Shorter and closer to home trips have thus far accounted for this dropoff. Construction activities have also fallen off in the State. A tight money market with high interest rates has caused a slowdown in new home construction. This has left a majority of the construction in commercial building with residential construction being federal housing projects. Monies from the State Housing Authority were released recently which will help residential construction.

Additional federal monies were made available to the State in the development of energy resource alternatives. Energy exploration, particularly oil and natural gas, continued strong in most areas of the State. Proposals have been made to develop an ethanol plant near Great Falls, which adds to the spectrum of Montana's energy resources.

Estimates of crop harvests put 80% of the winter wheat and 10% of the spring wheat harvested. Winterkill of winter wheat and an unseasonally dry July will keep yields below average. Oats, barley, and spring wheat harvest were behind as much as two weeks in normal harvest time. The dry weather curtailed lumber harvesting operations in July as well. With several forest fires in the State and extremely dry forest conditions, many forests were closed causing layoffs of loggers and mill workers. Rehires occurred in most areas as rains swept Montana in early August.

End-of-month fuel shortages are expected to be less severe than in months past. Allocations of fuel supplies to Montana were obtained that should prevent widespread shortage. Some spot shortages short in duration may occur in agricultural intense areas during harvest.

Montana's Composite Index of six economic indicators shows improvement over the previous month. Although the Index did not reach the level it had the same month one year ago, it did have an impressive gain over the previous month. It remains too soon to speculate on the Index's movement in upcoming months.

Much of the increase in spendable earnings of 5.1% from May to June was offset by inflation. This reduced earnings gains to only 3.0%. The continued 1+% increase in the Consumer Price Index persists in reducing real spendable earnings.

The current stabilization in Montana's economy may be followed by a downturn in upcoming months. Reduced crop yields, tight/high interest construction monies, and the reduction in tourism related revenues are certain to influence Montana in upcoming months. Generally, a stabilization that includes both expanding and contracting employment sectors as well as mixed movement in economic activities can be expected in upcoming months. These conditions may experience radical change dependent upon national activities, but no radical movement is expected until winter.

GREAT FALLS SMSA (Cascade County)

Employment and Unemployment Situation

The number of persons registered in the civilian labor force declined to 36,400 from 36,800 in June. Last year in July 37,100 were listed, 1.9% more than this July. Employment was also down from both last month and last year. This month's figure of 34,300 was 400 less than last month and 500 less than one year prior.

The unemployment total and unemployment rate remained the same from June to July. Also, July's 2,100 unemployed count and 5.7 percent rate compares favorably against one year ago figures of 2,300 unemployed and 6.3 percent unemployed rate.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook

The downtown development received another boost from a financial service company that plans to remodel a 43,000 square foot building. A one million dollar industrial revenue bond will be utilized for remodeling. The future office building was vacated several years ago by a department store that relocated in a shopping center.

A trucking firm has begun an expansion program with the construction of a new terminal building in the North Park industrial complex. The $150,000 building will be able to dock 22 trucks.

Among the summer construction projects, utility construction valued at about $1.3 million is being done in the Great Falls area to upgrade electrical systems. Also, a $1.6 million natural gas pipeline expansion will employ 50-70 local workers during the construction phase. The 8 mile long pipeline is being developed to increase pressure and to obtain security of supply to the Great Falls area.

A major project to develop a grain-based plant that would turn out 20 million gallons of ethanol a year is in the planning stage. The ethanol or grain alcohol would be mixed with gasoline; thus, a savings of crude oil by ten percent. The plant would also yield 210 tons of animal feed and potential human food by-products daily as well. An estimated cost of $30 million has been determined to build such a plant.

The Great Falls construction industry has not fared well this year when building permit requests and values are used as an indicator. A total of 72 permits with a value of $720,809 were issued this July, compared with 108 permits valued at $2,094,224 obtained during July 1978. During the last six month, building permit values have accumulated to $6,141,142. This is nearly one half the value of $12,067,927 for the February-July 1978 permits.

Winter wheat harvest is in full swing in the Golden Triangle. The local Job Service office has filled many agricultural positions this month as the demand has increased. Also, the service related industries have increased employment heavily through the local office.

BILLINGS SMSA (Yellowstone County)

Employment and Unemployment Situation

The civilian labor force grew slightly during the month to 55,700 which was 400 greater than this year's June count and last year's July count. Employment followed a similar trend. A gain of 500 moved the employed count to 54,000 in July-a gain of 1,000 over the same month one year ago.

The number of unemployed fell by 100 from June to July this year. The July total of 1,700 compared favorably with last year's count of 2,300 in July. The jobless rate for the Billings SMSA fell to 3.1% from June's 3.2% rate and was well below last July's rate of 4.2%.

These indicators of employment and unemployment point to a moderation in the economic activities of the SMSA in comparison to last year's June to July change. This moderation is explained in the reduction of tourism and tight money market for construction.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook

Construction highlights economic activity in the SMSA this report period. Major projects still under construction include the expansion of a large medical facility, new highrise hotel, and renovation of a former hotel into offices and restaurant. The restaurant nears completion and is expected to hire between 20 and 30 workers while offices are 3 to 4 months until completion. A building permit was issued for the construction of a $1.7 million elementary school. Still in the planning stage is a $6.4 million sports complex.

Remodeling and additions to single family units well out-pace last year's January to July count. Building permits for the construction of single family units is down nearly one-third of last year's year-to-date tally. This reflects the tight money market prevalent nationwide.

New business formation is another indicator of economic activity for the SMSA. This year's tally year-to-date of 519 is slightly ahead of last year's January through July count. New business formation this year is keeping pace with new businesses last year.

Tourism activities continue to be affected in the SMSA. High gasoline prices accompanied by possible end of month fuel shortages account for much of the tourism downturn. Consumer activities are also down because of the gasoline and fuel situation. Isolated layoffs directly or indirectly related to fuel shortages have been noted but not to any significant degree. End of month spot shortages may occur next month as harvest operations statewide will certainly limit fuel resources.

ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation

The civilian labor force continued to grow from 38,400 in June to 39,400 in July of 1979. This compares to a slightly higher figure of 39,900 for last July. Employment in July of this year was 1,100 higher than the June count and 1.4% higher than the total employment in July of 1978.

After jumping by 400 from May to June, the number of unemployed dropped by 100 from June to July of 1979. With 2,000 people unemployed in July of 1979, this compares to 3,000 unemployed in July of 1978. This put the July unemployment rate at 5.1%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook

Major construction continues to lead the economic activity in this LMA. The biggest part of this construction is in services and retail trade sectors. At the top of the list is the $3.2 million motel and convention center with construction valued at $4.3 million. Also going up in Butte is a fast food restaurant with construction costs of $200,000 and a supper club to be completed in early fall. In Dillon a former store is being renovated to house a delicatessen and soda fountain shop.

A $1.6 million project to build low income housing units has been sponsored by a local area group. At the same time, Butte Silver Bow received its second year contract for $500,000 in federal grant money. Most of this money will go toward rehabilitating rental and owner occupied buildings in the area. A public utility company has a $500,000 project going to upgrade the company's electrical system.

There will be jobs with a finance company that will be opening in Butte in the near future. Also, an energy conservation firm received $3.7 million in federal funds for 1980.

Farmers and ranchers are hiring hay hands and farm machinery operators. It is also time for flood irrigating and sprinkler moving as agriculture is starting to pick up.

Tourist activity continues to be slow in the LMA causing layoffs in the service and retail trade sectors. This, along with the fuel shortage, is causing employment problems for some workers.

A labor dispute continues between a local electrical company and the IBEW. Also there is a labor dispute which began at 6:00 a.m. Monday the 13th which brought most government operations in Anaconda to a halt.

Employment opportunities look good for experienced farm hands with haying coming up, while at the same time there will be work for experienced construction workers with all the building going on in this LMA. The job outlook for the services and retail trade sectors will not be real good with the tourist activity as low as it is.

BOZEMAN LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation

The Bozeman LMA civilian labor force lessened by 100 from June to a total of 29,300. The civilian labor force is 3.2% greater than one year ago. Employment in July, also, dropped by 100 from the previous month to 28,400. One year prior the employment registered 27,300.

The July unemployment count was 900 and the unemployment rate calculated to 3.2%. These figures are the same for the previous month. In July, 1978, the numbers were slightly higher with 1,100 unemployed and a 3.8% unemployment rate.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook

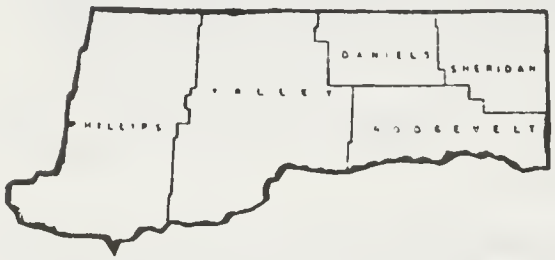
The retail industries were given a brief boost in activities with the Sweet Pea Festival. Otherwise, the reduction in tourism to the area is causing some cutbacks in employment. College activities in the fall will help the retail industry, but until fall consumer spending will be below normal.

In Livingston two corporations have submitted competing applications for federal support in family housing projects. The value of either project is well over a million dollars. The federal government would subsidize the rent payments under the HUD program. City officials are in favor of the projects. A response from HUD is expected in September.

Bozeman city officials have erased the $835,000 budget deficit, mainly through a hefty transfusion of federal revenue-sharing funds. Employment will probably remain unchanged in the number of city personnel.

The 1979 wheat harvest is expected to be below normal. Low moisture for the month of July may shrivel heads on spring wheat. Also, the elevators may fill up before harvest is completed due to a lack of grain cars to keep the grain moving. Combine operators and truck drivers will be in demand soon.

GLASGOW LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation

The civilian labor force continued its growing pattern as it reached 18,800 in the LMA this July. When compared to one year ago, this year's count was 500 greater. Employment following a similar pattern grew by 300 to 18,100 from June to July and was 700 greater than last year's count.

The count of unemployed remained the same at 700 for June and July this year. This July's count of the jobless was 200 less than July of last year. The unemployment

GLENDIVE LMA (cont.)

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook

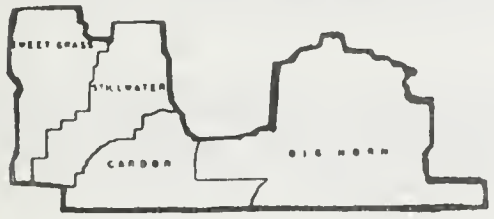
Activity in all industrial sectors has been steady for the last few weeks. Oil field, commercial, and residential construction projects continue. Preliminary work has begun on a new 45-unit motel south of Sidney.

One oil company is hiring additional warehouse workers to keep up with the influx of oil activity in the area. The railroad has hired approximately 30 laborers to work on a steel gang crew. Also there is anticipation of an accounting office coming into the Glendive area which will open jobs for a few office personnel.

The main agricultural activities are haying, summer fallowing, irrigating, and cultivating. Some winter wheat harvest has begun, so you can see that the grain harvest will be in full swing shortly.

There have been some layoffs among fuel transporters although oil field related transportation continues. Retail trade has been up to par in this area and will pick up with the back-to-school buying that has started. As mentioned above, the agricultural activity is growing and experienced hands are needed as it picks up.

HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation

The civilian labor force is noted as unchanged from June to July with a 14,400 count. July, 1978, had a civilian labor force of 13,900. A gain of 100 was registered in the employment figures from June to July with 14,000 the end result. This is 700 more than one year ago.

Those considered unemployed in July was recorded at 400 persons. This compares to 500 last month and 600 one year prior. The unemployment rate dropped to 3.0% from June's 3.8%. July, 1978, unemployment rate was much higher at 4.4%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook

The Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) has denied an application by a regional railroad company to abandon almost 34 miles of track in Carbon County. The ICC stated that even though the railroad line has suffered some net loss from the operations in Carbon County, there was enough evidence of a continuing need for the line. One of the major considerations is the development of a coal mine that shall produce 250,000 tons a year within 2-3 years of startup.

Another firm is doing a feasibility study on opening an underground mining operation in the Bull Mountains. They would start with fifty people and grow into two hundred if the operation is determined profitable.

GLASGOW LMA (cont.)

rate did decline slightly from 3.8% in June to 3.7% in July. This year's rate was much improved over last year's rate of 4.8%.

The slight improvements in the civilian labor force, employment, and unemployment rate reflects fairly stable economic activity in the LMA. The unchanged count in the number of unemployed from June to July reflects a slowing in employment opportunity.

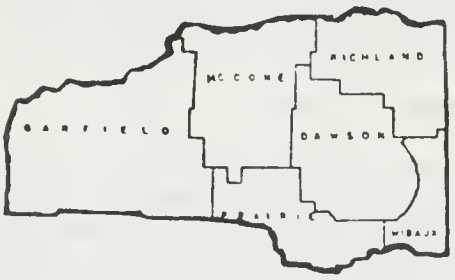
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook

Construction activities continue in the LMA. A 52-unit motel is complete while inplantation of a new storm sewer line progresses on schedule in the Glasgow area. Production will soon start for a concrete block company in Glasgow. Employment at the firm will be two full-time workers. In Sheridan County construction on a 40-mile gas line has started with most workers arriving from out of the area. In the Wolf Point area, completion of one tribal construction project has permitted the start up of a second project. Currently, 20 houses are under construction through the Fort Peck Tribal Housing Authority with four contractors employing approximately 35 workers completing basements and foundations.

After a six-month slowdown, a packing plant in the LMA is again at full production. Employment at the plant has been increased from 15 to 40 workers. Fuel supplies in the area appear adequate at this time. Tourism continues to be noticeably down; however, the North East Montana Fair brought many people into the Glasgow area the first week in August.

Winter wheat harvest nears completion at this time with spring wheat harvest to be behind last year's schedule. Custom combining crews started to move into the LMA mid-August. The bulk of the harvest will not occur until September. Local demands for hay workers were noted in the Wolf Point area.

GLENDIVE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation

The civilian labor force rose from 16,100 in June to 16,700 in July. This figure was 3.1% higher than that of July, 1978. The employment figure reflected the same growth of 600 over June of 1979. The total employed of 16,300 was almost 4% more than that of July, 1978.

The total number of unemployed remained at 400 as it was in June and also May of this year. The unemployment rate dropped to 2.2% for July.

HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA (cont.)

The Twenty-ninth Annual Festival of Nations stimulated the Red Lodge economy with its week long activities. Otherwise, Yellowstone National Park tourism is still down about twenty-five percent from last year's figures for July.

Hardin area enjoyed being able to partake in filming a major movie production. About 150 extras were cast from the area in the $3 million budgeted film.

HAVRE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation

The civilian labor force experienced moderate growth from June to July this year. The July count of 14,200 bettered June's count by 200. In comparison to one year ago, this year's total was 100 greater. Employment experienced similar gains. July's tally of 13,600 bettered June's count by 200 and was 200 greater than last year's July count.

The unemployed rolls were the same in June and July this year with 600 persons without jobs. Last year's July count of unemployed of 700 was much improved this year. The unemployment rate of 3.7% in July was slightly improved over the June rate of 3.8%. This July's rate was significantly improved over last July's rate of 4.9%.

The slight variations in the civilian labor force and employment reflect a fairly stable economic situation in the LMA. The unchanged unemployment count from June to July indicates that some entrants into the civilian labor force in June continue to be without employment.

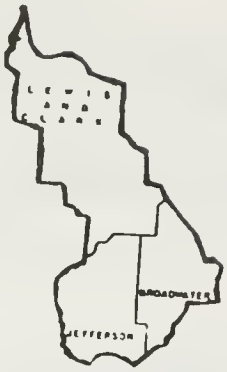
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook

The wholesale and retail trade sectors continue to be the most active in the LMA with construction and exploration drilling experiencing some activity. Hail destroyed some winter wheat crops in northern Hill County. Early estimates report 85% loss to some farms. Spring wheat harvest starts the third week in August.

A bentonite mining operation utilizing 20 workers is producing between 15,000 and 20,000 tons per week in the LMA. Reclamation at the mining site is also in progress.

Fuel shortages may occur at the end of the month. At this time, fuel supplies are adequate; however, the demands for diesel fuel will dramatically increase as harvest operations move into full swing.

HELENA LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation

The civilian labor force continued to grow to 30,100 which compares to 29,500 for July one year ago. Total employment in this LMA grew in the same respect. Employment was 28,700 which is 200 higher than June and 700 higher than July of 1978.

Unemployment registered a slight increase over the period. Unemployment in July totaled 1,400 which was 100 higher than June and 200 higher than May. This compares to total unemployment of 1,500 for July of last year. The unemployment rate rose by one tenth of a percentage point to 4.5% for July of 1979.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook

The warm, dry weather has allowed building and road construction to continue. This weather has also been perfect for haying. On the other hand, wheat is suffering from all the heat since it is in its critical stage of filling. Harvest is expected to be in full swing in two weeks.

Construction continues but is said to be at its lowest level in several years. Part of the reason is due to tight money and high interest rates. This is causing some layoffs among construction workers.

Motels have been sold out for weeks. This is partly due to the tourists stopping through to tour the capitol on their way to the parks. The retail business picked up while the Last Chance Stampede was in full swing. At the same time cafes are reporting less business than last year.

Employment in the construction industry is said to be lower than any other station in Montana with unions reporting that the bench is full. College students are all quitting their jobs to start preparing to return to college and this leaves a lot of jobs open in the service industry. Other shortages reported are for secretaries, key punchers and programmers. Some openings are also reported in highly skilled professional areas. Experienced farm hands will be in high demand shortly as harvest is already started in some area.

KALISPELL LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation

The civilian labor force in this LMA rose from 42,400 in June to 42,800 in July, which is 2,200 higher than last year at this time. Employment grew by 600 from June to July. Employment of 40,500 in July grew considerably over a year's time. In July, 1978, it was only 37,800.

KALISPELL LMA (cont.)

The total number of unemployed persons dropped by 200 since June. The total unemployed for July is 2,300 which gives us an unemployment rate of 5.4%. This is a great deal lower than the 7% for July of 1978.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook

The employment outlook has been relatively steady in the non-agricultural sector. Contract construction remains below normal with some layoffs. The major construction is in the Libby area with three big jobs in process. One is a $847,700 sluice repair on the dam. Another is a $1,067,478 contract for work on a campground, and the third contract of $1,282,642 is for downstream restoration of the Kootenai River.

Sawmill and logging have been maintaining full but steady payrolls. One sawmill may be hiring to add to the night shift so they can meet the orders. A major fire in a bee hive manufacturing plant in the Polson area has idled some workers for most of the summer. They will soon be back up to normal employment.

The retail and service areas continue very slow. Most businesses say their business is down from 10 to 50 percent compared to last year.

Agriculture remained active the last few weeks due primarily to the sweet cherry harvest which is now completed. Haying and sprinkler irrigation are the main activities with harvest of grain coming soon.

Fifty-five fire fighters were hired by the U. S. Forest Service with more expected to be hired as the weather remains hot and dry. Experienced help is needed in the services sector of this LMA. Some of the jobs are bartenders, cocktail and food waitresses, cooks and related jobs.

LEWISTOWN LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation

A significant improvement in the civilian labor force and employment figures occurred between June and July. The July labor force count was 12,800 which amounts to 500 more than June. The July employment number was 12,400 which includes 400 more than last month. The one year prior employment count was 5.1% less than July's figures.

In July, the unemployed persons registered at 400. Last month the unemployed number was 300, and last year had 600 unemployed. The unemployment rate for July increased slightly to 3.1% from the previous month's 2.9%. The July, 1978, rate was much greater at 4.6%.

LEWISTOWN LMA (cont.)

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook

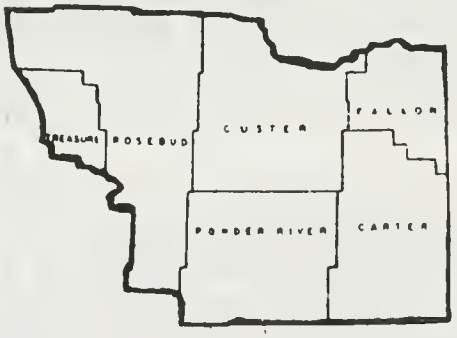
In the manufacturing industries a brickyard has recalled workers and a lumber mill has shut down. However, another lumber mill is remaining active as the log supply is improving.

Construction work continues with small projects as the main activity. Only a new lumber yard construction project is of any size and shall be completed this fall. In September, paving improvements in the downtown area will occur. Funding will be through a $79,200 special improvement district bond. A contract for approximately $83,000 has been approved by school district #1 for the modernization of the central kitchen facilities.

Grain harvest has begun in most of the LMA. Elevator storage may be a problem as in other LMA's.

New business firms in the Lewistown area for the last seven months is 69, which compares favorably with last year's total of 71. This indicator should be used in connection with other factors, but does show stability in the area's economy. Among the new business starts this month is a night club.

MILES CITY LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation

The civilian labor force moved upward to 17,000 from June's 16,800. This is 400 more than one year ago. An increase of 300 workers occurred in the employment sector from June to July for an employment level of 16,500 workers.

In July the unemployment figure was 500 and the unemployment rate calculated to 3.1%. Last month's numbers compare closely with 600 unemployed and 3.5%. A considerable improvement can be seen from the one year prior numbers of 700 unemployed persons and a 4.2% rate.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook

Construction work is at a summer peak in Miles City. Added to on-going projects are paving about 25 miles of city streets, building of a new lodge at Pine Hills School, and razing an elementary school site before constructing a new school on the same ground.

Housing development will have to adjust to the ruling that no septic tank can be built in an area flood plain. Thus, central sewer lines now are required for many locations outside city limits.

MILES CITY LMA (cont.)

A nationally affiliated merchandizing store is completed and plans to open in early September. Staffing plans include 75 full-time and part-time personnel, with all but seven positions being local employees.

In the Miles City LMA Powder River, Custer, Rosebud and Treasure counties have been designated as part of a coal impact-aid area under the "601" federal program. These counties are eligible for financial assistance for growth management and housing planning from the federal government.

Harvesting of spring grains is starting, but the outlook for a good harvest is not good. Storage room in the elevators is limited. Fuel supplies for harvesting equipment and transportation of grain are short. Yields for spring wheat will be low: about 20 bushels per acre compared to 40-50 in past years.

MISSOULA LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation

The civilian labor force increased by 100 from June to 55,600 in July. This year's civilian labor force count was 2,100 greater than one year ago. Employment gains were greater than those experienced in the civilian labor force. The June to July change saw employment grow from 52,300 to 52,700. In comparison to one year ago when employment was measured at 50,100, employment this year outpaced last July's count.

Unemployed persons totaled 2,900 in July. June's count of 3,200 and last year's count of 3,400 were much improved upon by this month's tally. The rate of unemployed moved from 5.7% in June and 6.3% one year ago to 5.2% this month.

Employment gains in the LMA this year fell below the June to July change reported last year. Because of lighter tourist activities and a general slowing in major construction projects this year, employment did not expand at last year's level. Unemployment did follow a similar trend in its June to July downturn.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook

Because of extremely dry forest conditions, some timber harvest operations have been curtailed. This in turn has caused reduced work hours and layoffs at some mills, a two-week closure at a finished wood products firm, and some local area loggers being idled. Approximately 185 Forest Service firefighters were called away from the Hamilton area to fight fires.

Major construction activities in the LMA include a ten store addition to a shopping center and a resurfacing, curb and guttering project in Missoula. Near Hamilton a highway project continues and a $300,000--10,000 kilowatt electrical substation is being constructed near Thompson Falls.

MISSOULA LMA (cont.)

A fast food restaurant opened in Missoula employing 80 workers and a plastics firm in the Hamilton area added 12 workers. Worker layoffs in the Hamilton area were caused by a restaurant's closing, motel burning down and firm relocation. Automobile dealers in the Missoula area are reducing staffs as new car sales fall. Such layoffs are isolated and limited at this time.

For the most part, haying and irrigation activities dominate the agricultural sector. Cherry harvest in the Hamilton area is behind last year's harvest time. A spring hail storm damaged some of the cherry crop this year. Canning operations this year will lag last year as much of the crop will be used by an out-of-state winery.

Employment opportunities are fair at this time with no major shortages of qualified workers reported. Some layoffs are noted as construction projects reach completion. Logging operations will expand and contract depending upon access to timber in extremely dry forests. Activities in other industrial sectors are stable at this time with seasonal layoffs not expected until next month. There are no reports of diesel fuel shortages in the area causing significant layoffs or delays in the delivery of goods.

SHELBY-CUTBANK LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation

The civilian labor force gained 200 persons this month, from 20,800 in June to 21,000 in July. The July, 1978, count of the civilian labor force totaled 20,600. Employment gains were also reported. June's count of 19,800 expanded to 20,200 in July which was much improved over last year's count of 19,600.

The jobless count last month of 1,000 was equal to the July count one year ago. This year's count was 200 less than the preceding month and one year ago. Unemployment rates calculated for the LMA reported a 4.7% rate in June, 3.9% rate in July and a 5.0% rate one year ago.

The sharp decline in the unemployment rate from June to July this year is seasonal in that many students on summer recess entered the civilian labor force in June. The moderate gains in employment this year follow last year's similar gains for the same time period. This is reflective of a stable economic condition in the LMA.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook

Construction is progressing rapidly on a shopping center, apartment complex, bank, and new homes in the LMA at this time. Remodeling of one department store should double the store's size in the Cutbank area. A low-income housing project is continuing on schedule to an October opening date.

SHELBY-CUTBANK LMA (cont.)

Drilling activities in the Browning area have picked up, while in other parts of the LMA activity is sporadic. Harvest starts in mid-August with calls for harvest crews beginning. A completed cutting of hay is also reported in the LMA.

Construction continues on a highway project north of Shelby. Additional workers may be put to work on the project. Low tourism activity continues in the Glacier Park area. Fuel shortages and gasoline price increases account for this.

Shortages of qualified restaurant and motel workers are reported for the Shelby area. In the Chester area shortages of qualified hospital workers have been reported. Job opportunities for agricultural workers appear excellent at this time.

MANPOWER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

July 1979

Program	New Enrollees	Job Placements	End of Month Enrollment
WIN	240	124	470
CETA-CEP	83	46	271
CETA-INST.	21	13	176
CETA-OJT	48	23	154
JOB CORPS	33	33	458
PSE TITLE II	83	46	512
PSE TITLE VI	20	29	222
PSE TITLE VI-A	64	37	336
CETA - AWE	74	32	194
STIP I	0	0	0
HIRE II	4	13	45
HIRE II	0	3	28
STIP II	14	1	55
PSE II DAB			

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - U. S.[1/]

(1967 = 100)

Group	July 1979	*Percent Change From:* June 1979	July 1978
All Items	*218.9*	*1.1*	*11.3*

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE UNEMPLOYED[2/]

July 1979

Social Characteristics	*Percent of Total Covered Unemployment*
Non-White	*12.5%*
Female	*46.9%*
Youth	*10.4%*
Over 45	*19.4%*

1/ The Consumer Price Index measures changes in prices of goods and services bought by urban wage earners and clerical workers, including families and single persons.

2/ Based on 20% sample of Continued Claims filed during the week including the 19th of each month in all local offices.

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Table I

RESIDENCE DATA

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ Montana	Percent 1/ U. S.	
1977								
January	315.8	290.3	267.7	22.6	25.5	*8.1*	*8.3*	*
February	318.4	292.9	268.1	24.8	25.5	*8.0*	*8.5*	*
March	327.2	301.9	272.0	29.9	25.3	*7.7*	*7.9*	.1
April	336.1	313.8	276.8	37.0	22.3	*6.6*	*6.9*	*
May	343.4	323.1	285.0	38.1	20.3	*5.9*	*6.4*	*
June	360.0	338.5	295.2	43.3	21.5	*6.0*	*7.5*	.1
July	364.4	343.2	297.0	46.2	21.2	*5.8*	*7.0*	3.4
August	374.5	353.7	304.4	49.3	20.8	*5.5*	*6.8*	.2
September	362.5	343.3	304.9	38.4	19.2	*5.3*	*6.6*	.1
October	347.0	327.8	295.3	32.5	19.2	*5.5*	*6.3*	.4
November	345.0	323.7	295.8	27.9	21.3	*6.2*	*6.4*	.3
December	345.7	323.7	299.8	23.9	22.0	*6.4*	*6.0*	*
Avg.	345.0	323.0	288.5	34.5	22.0	*6.4*	*7.0*	.4
1978								
January	338.7	312.1	290.1	22.0	26.6	*7.8*	*7.0*	*
February	342.5	316.8	292.9	23.9	25.7	*7.5*	*6.9*	*
March	355.1	328.6	300.0	28.6	26.5	*7.5*	*6.6*	*
April	365.9	344.5	309.4	35.1	21.4	*5.9*	*5.8*	*
May	373.6	354.9	318.8	36.1	18.7	*5.0*	*5.5*	.1
June	395.1	371.4	330.2	41.2	23.7	*6.0*	*6.2*	.4
July	396.5	375.0	330.9	44.1	21.5	*5.4*	*6.3*	.2
August	393.6	373.4	326.2	47.2	20.2	*5.1*	*5.8*	.1
September	382.0	363.9	327.1	36.8	18.1	*4.7*	*6.0*	.1
October	368.1	350.8	319.5	31.3	17.3	*4.7*	*5.4*	.1
November	367.6	346.4	319.5	26.9	21.2	*5.8*	*5.5*	.1
December	361.2	338.1	315.0	23.1	23.1	*6.4*	*5.6*	.1
Avg.	370.0	348.0	315.0	33.0	22.0	*6.0*	*6.0*	.1
1979								
January	356.2	329.6	308.3	21.3	26.6	*7.5*	*6.4*	*
February	358.6	336.5	313.3	23.2	22.1	*6.2*	*6.4*	1.0
March	366.1	346.3	318.5	27.8	19.8	*5.4*	*6.1*	*
April	377.0	358.1	323.9	34.2	18.9	*5.0*	*5.5*	*
May	386.2	370.0	334.7	35.3	16.2	*4.2*	*5.2*	*
June	400.4	382.3	342.1	40.2	18.1	*4.5*	*6.0*	*
July	404.3	387.1	344.1	43.0	17.2	*4.2*	*5.8*	*
August	*405.5*	*388.8*	*342.9*	*46.0*	*16.7*	*4.1*		*
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers. *Series began January 1970.*

2/ Non-additive - included in total employment. *Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

RESIDENCE DATA

Table II

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1977								
January	31.4	29.0	28.1	.9	2.4	*7.7*	*6.1*	*
February	31.4	29.3	28.3	1.0	2.1	*6.8*	*8.0*	*
March	32.1	29.9	28.7	1.2	2.2	*7.0*	*7.7*	*
April	32.2	30.3	28.8	1.5	1.9	*5.9*	*6.6*	*
May	32.7	30.8	29.3	1.5	1.9	*5.8*	*5.9*	*
June	34.1	32.0	30.3	1.7	2.1	*6.0*	*6.0*	*
July	34.3	32.2	30.4	1.8	2.1	*6.2*	*5.8*	.8
August	34.5	32.4	30.5	1.9	2.1	*6.1*	*5.5*	*
September	34.8	32.7	31.2	1.5	2.1	*6.0*	*5.3*	*
October	34.1	31.9	30.6	1.3	2.2	*6.3*	*5.5*	.3
November	34.0	32.0	30.9	1.1	2.0	*5.9*	*6.2*	.3
December	34.0	31.7	30.8	.9	2.3	*6.6*	*6.4*	*
Avg.	33.3	31.2	29.8	1.4	2.1	*6.4*	*6.4*	.1
1978								
January	33.2	30.4	29.5	.9	2.8	*8.3*	*7.8*	*
February	33.7	31.0	30.1	.9	2.7	*8.0*	*7.5*	*
March	34.7	32.1	31.0	1.1	2.6	*7.4*	*7.5*	*
April	34.5	32.5	31.1	1.4	2.0	*5.8*	*5.9*	*
May	35.0	33.1	31.7	1.4	1.9	*5.4*	*5.0*	*
June	37.1	34.3	32.7	1.6	2.8	*7.4*	*6.0*	*
July	37.1	34.8	33.1	1.7	2.3	*6.3*	*5.4*	*
August	37.0	34.7	32.8	1.9	2.3	*6.2*	*5.1*	*
September	36.8	34.5	33.0	1.5	2.3	*6.2*	*4.7*	*
October	36.0	33.9	32.7	1.2	2.1	*5.9*	*4.7*	*
November	36.3	33.6	32.5	1.1	2.7	*7.4*	*5.8*	*
December	35.6	32.8	31.9	.9	2.8	*7.9*	*6.4*	*
Avg.	35.6	33.2	31.9	1.3	2.4	*6.8*	*6.0*	*
1979								
January	34.9	31.9	31.1	.8	3.0	*8.6*	*7.5*	*
February	34.6	32.2	31.3	.9	2.4	*6.9*	*6.2*	*
March	34.9	32.8	31.9	1.1	2.1	*6.1*	*5.4*	*
April	35.4	33.4	32.0	1.4	2.0	*5.6*	*5.0*	*
May	36.1	34.3	32.9	1.4	1.8	*5.0*	*4.2*	*
June	36.8	34.7	33.1	1.6	2.1	*5.7*	*4.5*	*
July	36.4	34.3	32.6	1.7	2.1	*5.7*	*4.2*	*
August	*36.5*	*34.5*	*32.7*	*1.8*	*2.0*	*5.5*	*4.1*	*
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.

Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Table III

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

RESIDENCE DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1977								
January	48.0	45.0	44.0	1.0	3.0	6.2	8.1	*
February	48.2	45.3	44.2	1.1	2.9	6.0	8.0	*
March	49.0	46.3	44.9	1.4	2.7	5.6	7.7	*
April	49.4	47.0	45.3	1.7	2.4	4.8	6.6	*
May	50.0	47.7	46.0	1.7	2.3	4.6	5.9	*
June	51.7	49.4	47.4	2.0	2.3	4.4	6.0	*
July	51.9	49.6	47.5	2.1	2.3	4.4	5.8	*
August	52.6	50.3	48.0	2.3	2.3	4.3	5.5	*
September	52.9	50.7	48.9	1.8	2.2	4.2	5.3	*
October	51.6	49.3	47.8	1.5	2.3	4.4	5.5	*
November	52.0	49.7	48.4	1.3	2.3	4.4	6.2	*
December	52.7	50.3	49.2	1.1	2.4	4.6	6.4	*
Avg.	50.8	48.4	46.8	1.6	2.4	4.8	6.4	*
1978								
January	51.1	48.0	47.0	1.0	3.1	6.1	7.8	*
February	51.4	48.5	47.4	1.1	2.9	5.6	7.5	*
March	52.9	49.7	48.4	1.3	3.2	6.1	7.5	*
April	53.8	51.5	49.9	1.6	2.3	4.3	5.9	*
May	53.8	51.7	50.0	1.7	2.1	3.9	5.0	*
June	55.7	53.0	51.1	1.9	2.7	4.8	6.0	*
July	55.3	53.0	51.0	2.0	2.3	4.2	5.4	*
August	55.0	52.7	50.5	2.2	2.3	4.1	5.1	*
September	55.5	53.4	51.7	1.7	2.1	3.8	4.7	*
October	54.6	52.8	51.4	1.4	1.8	3.2	4.7	*
November	55.2	52.6	51.4	1.2	2.6	4.8	5.8	*
December	54.4	51.7	50.6	1.1	2.7	4.8	6.4	*
Avg.	54.1	51.6	50.1	1.5	2.5	4.6	6.0	*
1979								
January	53.5	50.5	49.5	1.0	3.0	5.7	7.5	*
February	52.9	50.5	49.4	1.1	2.4	4.8	6.2	*
March	53.3	51.2	49.9	1.3	2.1	3.8	5.4	*
April	53.8	51.9	50.3	1.6	1.9	3.5	5.0	*
May	55.2	53.6	52.0	1.6	1.6	2.9	4.2	*
June	55.3	53.5	51.7	1.8	1.8	3.2	4.5	*
July	55.7	54.0	52.0	2.0	1.7	3.1	4.2	*
August	*55.9*	*54.2*	*52.1*	*2.1*	*1.7*	*3.0*	*4.1*	*
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.

Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table I

MONTANA

Statewide Employment by Industry
July 1979

In Thousands

INDUSTRY	July 1979	June 1979	July 1978	Net Changes to Current Month from: June 1979	July 1978
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS1/	404.3	400.4	396.5	3.9	7.8
EMPLOYED PERSONS	387.1	382.3	375.0	4.8	12.1
Persons Employed in Agriculture	43.0	40.2	44.1	2.8	-1.1
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	17.2	18.1	21.5	-.9	-4.3
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted2/	4.2	4.5	5.4	-.3	-1.2
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted2/	4.6	4.3	5.9	.3	-1.3
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*303.7*	*299.5*	*288.3*	*+4.2*	*+15.4*
MANUFACTURING	*28.8*	*28.2*	*27.3*	*+ .6*	*+ 1.5*
Durable Goods	*19.5*	*18.9*	*18.2*	*+ .6*	*+ 1.3*
24 Lumber and Wood Products	*12.4*	*11.9*	*11.3*	*+ .5*	*+ 1.1*
33 Primary Metal Industries	*3.4*	*3.2*	*3.4*	*+ .2*	*0*
Other Durable Goods	*3.7*	*3.8*	*3.5*	*- .1*	*+ .2*
Nondurable Goods	*9.3*	*9.3*	*9.1*	*0*	*+ .2*
20 Food and Kindred Products	*4.1*	*4.0*	*4.0*	*+ .1*	*+ .1*
27 Printing and Publishing	*2.3*	*2.3*	*2.3*	*0*	*0*
29 Petroleum and Coal Products	*1.1*	*1.1*	*1.2*	*0*	*- .1*
Other Nondurable Goods	*1.8*	*1.9*	*1.6*	*- .1*	*+ .2*
MINING	*8.3*	*8.2*	*7.6*	*+ .1*	*+ .7*
10 Metal Mining	*2.3*	*2.3*	*2.4*	*0*	*- .1*
12 & 14 Bitum. Coal, Quarrying, Non-Metal Mining	*2.4*	*2.3*	*2.1*	*+ .1*	*+ .3*
13 Oil and Gas Extraction	*3.6*	*3.6*	*3.1*	*0*	*+ .5*
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	*18.8*	*18.6*	*18.8*	*+ .2*	*0*
15 General Building Contractors	*7.0*	*7.0*	*6.5*	*0*	*+ .5*
16 Heavy Construction Contractors	*5.0*	*4.9*	*5.5*	*+ .1*	*- .5*
17 Special Trade Contractors	*6.8*	*6.7*	*6.8*	*+ .1*	*0*
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	*23.8*	*23.7*	*22.0*	*+ .1*	*+ 1.8*
40 Railroad Transportation	*7.6*	*7.6*	*7.1*	*0*	*+ .5*
41-47 Transportation, Except Railroad	*7.4*	*7.4*	*6.7*	*0*	*+ .7*
48 & 49 Communic., Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	*8.8*	*8.7*	*8.2*	*+ .1*	*+ .6*
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	*79.4*	*78.9*	*73.7*	*+ .5*	*+ 5.7*
Wholesale Trade	*18.5*	*18.5*	*16.5*	*0*	*+ 2.0*
Retail Trade	*60.9*	*60.4*	*57.2*	*+ .5*	*+ 3.7*
53 & 56 General Merchandise, Apparel, Accessories	*8.7*	*8.5*	*8.8*	*+ .2*	*- .1*
54 Food Stores	*8.0*	*8.0*	*7.7*	*0*	*+ .3*
55 Automotive Dealers, Service Stations	*9.3*	*9.2*	*8.5*	*+ .1*	*+ .5*
58 Eating and Drinking Places	*23.7*	*23.1*	*21.6*	*+ .3*	*+ 2.1*
52, 57, 59 Misc. Ret., Farm Equip., Furn., Misc.	*11.2*	*11.3*	*10.5*	*- .1*	*+ .7*
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	*14.2*	*14.1*	*12.1*	*+ .1*	*+ 2.1*
SERVICES	*88.8*	*85.5*	*84.0*	*+ .3*	*+ 2.4*
70 Hotels & Other Lodging Places	*8.5*	*8.2*	*8.6*	*+ .3*	*- .1*
72 Personal Services	*2.6*	*2.8*	*2.4*	*- .1*	*+ .2*
80 Medical and other Health Services	*16.3*	*16.9*	*13.8*	*-*	*+ 2.5*
Other Services	*27.3*	*27.5*	*25.6*	*- .2*	*+ 2.6*
GOVERNMENT	*72.0*	*72.3*	*72.7*	*- .3*	*- 1.7*
91 Federal Government	*15.4*	*13.7*	*16.4*	*+ 1.6*	*- 1.1*
92 State Colleges and Universities	*6.6*	*6.6*	*6.5*	*0*	*+ .1*
93 Other State Government	*11.1*	*11.0*	*11.2*	*+ .1*	*- .1*
94 Local Education	*22.7*	*22.7*	*21.7*	*0*	*+ 1.0*
95 Other Local Government	*16.3*	*16.3*	*15.7*	*0*	*+ 2.6*

1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers. Current month preliminary. Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.
2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.
Establishment Series began January 1964; Residence Series began January 1970.

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table V

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

July 1979

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	July 1979	June 1979	July 1978	Net Changes to Current Month from: June 1979	July 1978
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1/]	36.4	36.8	37.1	-.4	-.7
EMPLOYED PERSONS	34.3	34.7	34.8	-.4	-.5
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.7	1.6	1.7	.1	0
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.1	2.1	2.3	0	-.2
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2/]	*5.7*	*5.7*	*6.3*	*0*	*-.6*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2/]	*5.8*	*5.1*	*6.4*	*+.7*	*-.6*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*31.4*	*31.8*	*31.1*	*-.4*	*+.3*
Manufacturing	*1.9*	*1.9*	*1.9*	*0*	*0*
Contract Construction	*2.1*	*2.3*	*2.1*	*-.2*	*0*
Transportation and Public Utilities	*2.2*	*2.0*	*1.9*	*+.2*	*+.3*
Trade	*10.7*	*10.6*	*10.5*	*+.1*	*+.2*
Wholesale Trade	*2.9*	*2.8*	*2.7*	*+.1*	*+.2*
Retail Trade	*7.9*	*7.8*	*7.8*	*+.1*	*+.1*
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	*2.1*	*2.1*	*2.0*	*0*	*+.1*
Services and Mining	*6.5*	*6.4*	*6.6*	*+.1*	*-.1*
Government	*5.9*	*6.5*	*6.1*	*-.6*	*-.2*
Federal Government	*1.9*	*2.0*	*2.1*	*-.1*	*-.2*
State and Local Government	*4.0*	*4.5*	*4.0*	*-.5*	*0*

1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.
2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.
Current month preliminary. *Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.*

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table VI

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

July 1979

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	July 1979	June 1979	July 1978	Net Changes to Current Month from: June 1979	Net Changes to Current Month from: July 1978
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	55.7	55.3	55.3	.4	.4
EMPLOYED PERSONS	54.0	53.5	53.0	.5	1.0
Persons Employed in Agriculture	2.0	1.8	2.0	.2	0
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	1.7	1.8	2.3	-.1	-.6
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	*3.1*	*3.2*	*4.2*	*-.1*	*-1.1*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	*3.2*	*2.7*	*4.4*	*+.5*	*-1.2*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*47.5*	*46.9*	*45.5*	*+.6*	*+2.0*
Manufacturing	*4.3*	*4.2*	*4.1*	*+.1*	*+ .2*
Contract Construction	*2.9*	*2.9*	*2.5*	*0*	*+ .4*
Transportation and Public Utilities	*4.4*	*4.4*	*4.1*	*0*	*+ .3*
Trade	*16.3*	*16.1*	*15.4*	*+.2*	*+ .9*
Wholesale Trade	*5.4*	*5.3*	*5.2*	*+.1*	*+ .2*
Retail Trade	*10.9*	*10.8*	*10.2*	*+.1*	*+ .7*
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	*2.3*	*2.3*	*2.2*	*0*	*+ .1*
Services and Mining	*9.9*	*9.8*	*9.4*	*+.1*	*+ .5*
Government	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.8*	*0*	*- .5*
Federal Government	*1.5*	*1.5*	*1.5*	*0*	*0*
State and Local Government	*5.8*	*5.8*	*6.3*	*0*	*- .5*

1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.

2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Current month preliminary. *Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.*

Table VII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	May 1979	June 1979	July 1979	May 1979	June 1979	July 1979	May 1979	June 1979	July 1979	May 1979	June 1979	July 1979
STATEWIDE	386.2	400.4	404.3	370.0	382.3	387.1	16.2	18.1	17.2	4.2	4.5	4.2
GREAT FALLS SMSA	36.1	36.8	36.4	34.3	34.7	34.3	1.8	2.1	2.1	5.0	5.7	5.7
BILLINGS SMSA	55.2	55.3	55.7	53.6	53.5	54.0	1.6	1.8	1.7	2.9	3.2	3.1
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	294.9	308.3	312.2	282.1	294.1	298.8	12.8	14.2	13.4	4.3	4.6	4.3
ANACONDA-BUTTE	37.2	38.4	39.4	35.5	36.3	37.4	1.7	2.1	2.0	4.7	5.4	5.1
BOZEMAN	28.1	29.4	29.3	27.2	28.5	28.4	.9	.9	.9	3.3	3.2	3.2
GLASGOW	17.6	18.5	18.8	17.0	17.8	18.1	.6	.7	.7	3.6	3.8	3.7
GLENDIVE	15.4	16.1	16.7	15.0	15.7	16.3	.4	.4	.4	2.5	2.4	2.2
HARDIN-RED LODGE	13.6	14.4	14.4	13.2	13.9	14.0	.4	.5	.4	3.1	3.8	3.0
HAVRE	13.3	14.0	14.2	12.8	13.4	13.6	.5	.6	.6	3.7	4.2	4.4
HELENA	29.1	29.8	30.1	27.9	28.5	28.7	1.2	1.3	1.4	4.2	4.4	4.5
KALISPELL	40.7	42.4	42.8	38.1	39.9	40.5	2.6	2.5	2.3	6.4	6.0	5.4
LEWISTOWN	11.6	12.3	12.8	11.3	12.0	12.4	.3	.3	.4	2.9	2.9	3.1
MILES CITY	16.1	16.8	17.0	15.6	16.2	16.5	.5	.6	.5	3.0	3.5	3.1
MISSOULA	53.2	55.5	55.6	50.4	52.3	52.7	2.8	3.2	2.9	5.2	5.7	5.2
SHELBY-CUT BANK	18.9	20.8	21.0	18.2	19.8	20.2	.7	1.0	.8	3.8	4.7	3.9

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.
2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

TABLE VIII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	July 1979	July 1978	Percent Change 1978-1979	July 1979	July 1978	Percent Change 1978-1979	July 1979	July 1978	Net Change 1978-1979	July 1979	July 1978	Net Change 1978-1979
STATEWIDE	404.3	396.5	2.0	387.1	375.0	3.2	17.2	21.5	-4.3	4.2	5.4	-1.2
GREAT FALLS SMSA	36.4	37.1	-1.9	34.3	34.8	-1.4	2.1	2.3	- .2	5.7	6.3	- .6
BILLINGS SMSA	55.7	55.3	.7	54.0	53.0	1.9	1.7	2.3	- .6	3.1	4.2	-1.1
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	312.2	304.1	2.7	298.8	287.2	4.0	13.4	16.9	-3.5	4.3	5.5	-1.2
ANACONDA-BUTTE	39.4	39.9	-1.3	37.4	36.9	1.4	2.0	3.0	-1.0	5.1	7.4	-2.3
BOZEMAN	29.3	28.4	3.2	28.4	27.3	4.0	.9	1.1	- .2	3.2	3.8	- .6
GLASGOW	18.8	18.3	2.7	18.1	17.4	4.0	.7	.9	- .2	3.7	4.8	-1.1
GLENDIVE	16.7	16.2	3.1	16.3	15.7	3.8	.4	.5	- .1	2.2	3.3	-1.1
HARDIN-RED LODGE	14.4	13.9	3.6	14.0	13.3	5.3	.4	.6	- .2	3.0	4.4	-1.4
HAVRE	14.2	14.1	.7	13.6	13.4	1.5	.6	.7	- .1	4.4	4.9	- .5
HELENA	30.1	29.5	2.0	28.7	28.0	2.5	1.4	1.5	- .1	4.5	5.2	- .7
KALISPELL	42.8	40.6	5.4	40.5	37.8	7.1	2.3	2.8	- .5	5.4	7.0	-1.6
LEWISTOWN	12.8	12.4	3.2	12.4	11.8	5.1	.4	.6	- .2	3.1	4.6	-1.5
MILES CITY	17.0	16.6	2.4	16.5	15.9	3.8	.5	.7	- .2	3.1	4.2	-1.1
MISSOULA	55.6	53.5	3.9	52.7	50.1	5.2	2.9	3.4	- .5	5.2	6.3	-1.1
SHELBY-CUT BANK	21.0	20.6	1.9	20.2	19.6	3.1	.8	1.0	- .2	3.9	5.0	-1.1

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.
2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

TABLE IX A

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

JULY 1979

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	404302	387131	17171	4.2
CASCADE	36379	34296	2083	5.7
YELLOWSTONE	55739	54005	1734	3.1
BEAVERHEAD	5019	4905	114	2.3
BIG HORN	6548	6298	250	3.8
BLAINE	3607	3393	214	5.9
BROADWATER	2007	1955	52	2.6
CARBON	3607	3497	110	3.0
CARTER	1083	1018	65	6.0
CHOUTEAU	3658	3593	65	1.8
CUSTER	6521	6354	167	2.6
DANIELS	1618	1589	29	1.8
DAWSON	6152	5975	177	2.9
DEER LODGE	6353	6008	345	5.4
FALLON	2387	2340	47	2.0
FERGUS	6895	6696	199	2.9
FLATHEAD	25215	23864	1351	5.4
GALLATIN	22051	21341	710	3.2
GARFIELD	1045	1011	34	3.3
GLACIER	6622	6149	473	7.1
GOLDEN VALLEY	465	443	22	4.7
GRANITE	1581	1500	81	5.1
HILL	9244	8867	377	4.1
JEFFERSON	2306	2119	187	8.1
JUDITH BASIN	1480	1393	87	5.9
LAKE	9842	9417	425	4.3
LEWIS AND CLARK	25754	24644	1110	4.3
LIBERTY	1337	1309	28	2.1
LINCOLN	7723	7177	546	7.1
MC CONE	1457	1441	16	1.1
MADISON	2780	2708	72	2.6
MEAGHER	1207	1176	31	2.6
MINERAL	1927	1843	84	4.4
MISSOULA	40009	37945	2064	5.2
MUSSELSHELL	2155	2101	55	2.6
PARK	6093	5906	187	3.1
PETROLEUM	392	389	3	.8
PHILLIPS	3220	3131	89	2.8
PONDERA	3853	3745	108	2.8
POWDER RIVER	1402	1368	34	2.4
POWELL	4309	4137	172	4.0
PRAIRIE	940	929	11	1.2
RAVALLI	9214	8697	517	5.6
RICHLAND	6251	6157	94	1.5
ROOSEVELT	5529	5270	259	4.7
ROSEBUD	5076	4868	208	4.1
SANDERS	4455	4212	243	5.5
SHERIDAN	2924	2894	30	1.0
SILVER BOW	19383	18169	1214	6.3
STILLWATER	2398	2332	66	2.8
SWEET GRASS	1877	1865	12	.6
TETON	3405	3309	96	2.8
TOOLE	3449	3377	72	2.1
TREASURE	591	562	9	1.5
VALLEY	5517	5230	287	5.2
WHEATLAND	1417	1389	28	2.0
WIBAUX	833	805	28	3.4

TABLE IX B

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

JUNE 1979

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	400382	382314	18068	4.5
CASCADE	36797	34694	2103	5.7
YELLOWSTONE	55253	53475	1778	3.2
BEAVERHEAD	4781	4643	138	2.9
BIG HORN	6605	6277	328	5.0
BLAINE	3525	3342	183	5.2
BROADWATER	1995	1953	42	2.1
CARBON	3541	3386	155	4.4
CARTER	1016	951	67	6.6
CHOUTEAU	3529	3476	53	1.5
CUSTER	6451	6252	199	3.1
DANIELS	1613	1588	25	1.5
DAWSON	6193	6001	192	3.1
DEER LODGE	6158	5820	338	5.5
FALLON	2314	2272	42	1.8
FERGUS	6734	6579	155	2.3
FLATHEAD	24764	23422	1362	5.5
GALLATIN	22082	21378	704	3.2
GARFIELD	976	930	46	4.7
GLACIER	6933	6380	553	8.0
GOLDEN VALLEY	475	442	31	6.6
GRANITE	1545	1474	71	4.6
HILL	9211	8830	381	4.1
JEFFERSON	2281	2164	117	5.1
JUDITH BASIN	1384	1312	72	5.2
LAKE	9662	9115	547	5.7
LEWIS AND CLARK	25558	24408	1150	4.5
LIBERTY	1251	1221	30	2.4
LINCOLN	7988	7358	630	7.9
MC CONE	1378	1361	17	1.2
MADISON	2582	2540	42	1.6
MEAGHER	1161	1127	34	2.9
MINERAL	1640	1553	87	5.3
MISSOULA	40359	38078	2281	5.7
MUSSELSHELL	1950	1918	32	1.6
PARK	6187	5975	212	3.4
PETROLEUM	367	364	3	.8
PHILLIPS	3014	2932	82	2.7
PONDERA	3861	3737	124	3.2
POWDER RIVER	1363	1327	36	2.6
POWELL	4394	4195	199	4.5
PRAIRIE	939	926	13	1.4
RAVALLI	9035	8490	545	6.0
RICHLAND	5800	5700	100	1.7
ROOSEVELT	5513	5222	291	5.3
ROSEBUD	5105	4876	229	4.5
SANDERS	4414	4143	271	6.1
SHERIDAN	2934	2900	34	1.2
SILVER BOW	18888	17594	1294	6.9
STILLWATER	2430	2382	48	2.0
SWEET GRASS	1819	1807	12	.7
TETON	3244	3139	105	3.2
TOOLE	3163	3029	134	4.2
TREASURE	557	548	9	1.6
VALLEY	5439	5174	265	4.9
WHEATLAND	1426	1367	59	4.1
WIBAUX	785	767	18	2.3

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

TABLE X

MONTANA

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

July 1979

(In Thousands)

INDUSTRY	FEMALE EMPLOYMENT					TOTAL EMPLOYMENT COMPARISON			
	July 1979 1/	June 1978	July 1979	Net Change to Current Month From: June 1979	Net Change to Current Month From: July 1978	Total July	Percent Women	Total June	Percent Women
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers .	129.1	129.0	129.3	+.1	+7.8	303.7	42.5	299.5	43.1
Manufacturing	3.2	3.2	3.2	0	0	28.8	11.1	28.2	11.3
Mining	0.5	0.5	0.4	0	+.1	8.3	6.0	8.2	6.1
Contract Construction	1.8	1.8	1.3	0	+.5	18.8	9.6	18.6	9.7
Transportation & Public Utilities .	4.5	4.5	4.0	0	+.5	23.8	18.9	23.7	19.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	36.8	36.8	32.9	0	+3.9	79.4	46.3	78.9	46.6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate ..	8.5	8.5	8.3	0	+.2	14.2	59.9	14.1	60.3
Services	34.9	34.9	36.6	0	-1.7	56.4	61.9	55.5	62.9
Government 2/	38.9	38.9	34.6	0	+4.3	74.0	52.6	72.3	53.8

1/ Current month preliminary. Revised to 1978 Benchmark. Establishment Series began January 1974.

2/ Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged.

Prepared by the Montana Employment Security Division in Cooperation with the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TABLE XI

MONTANA FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

(In Thousands)

1978

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann. Avg.
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	114.7	115.0	116.9	119.5	120.8	123.8	121.3	122.1	120.4	122.2	122.3	127.7	120.6
Manufacturing	2.9	2.6	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.1	3.1	3.0
Mining	.3	.3	.3	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4
Contract Construction	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3
Transport. & Public Utilities.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	30.7	30.5	31.2	32.2	33.2	33.7	32.9	35.3	35.5	35.3	35.2	38.5	33.7
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate..	7.4	7.7	7.9	8.0	8.0	8.2	8.3	8.4	7.9	7.9	8.0	7.8	8.0
Services	33.8	34.0	33.4	35.2	35.4	37.6	36.6	34.0	34.3	34.1	34.3	35.2	34.8
Government	34.9	35.3	35.5	35.7	35.8	35.6	34.6	35.4	33.7	35.6	35.8	37.2	35.4

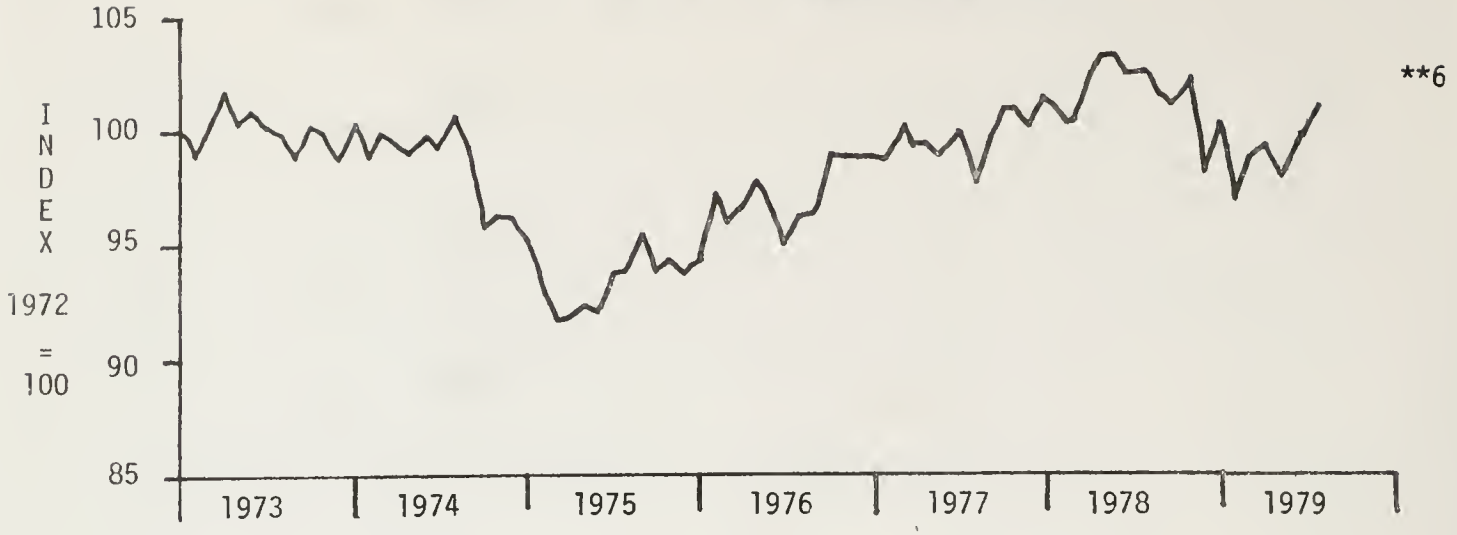
1979

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	126.7	122.4	124.2	126.5	128.1	129.1
Manufacturing.....	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.2
Mining	.4	.4	.4	.4	.5	.5
Contract Construction.....	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.8
Transport. & Public Utilities.	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	38.7	35.6	35.7	35.7	36.5	36.8
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate..	8.4	8.3	8.4	8.3	8.4	8.5
Services.....	35.0	34.8	35.0	34.7	35.0	34.9
Government.....	35.7	34.8	36.2	38.8	38.9	38.9

1/ Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged. Establishment Series began January, 1974. Revised to 1978 Benchmark.
Prepared by Montana Employment Security Division in cooperation with U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

COMPOSITE INDEX OF SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS*



Composite Index of
SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS

1978	
January	100.6
February	100.2
March	102.2
April	103.1
May	103.1
June	102.4
July	102.5
August	101.5
September	101.0
October	102.2
November	98.0
December	100.4
1979	
January	96.7
February	98.8
March	99.2
April	97.8
May	99.9
June	101.3
July	
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	

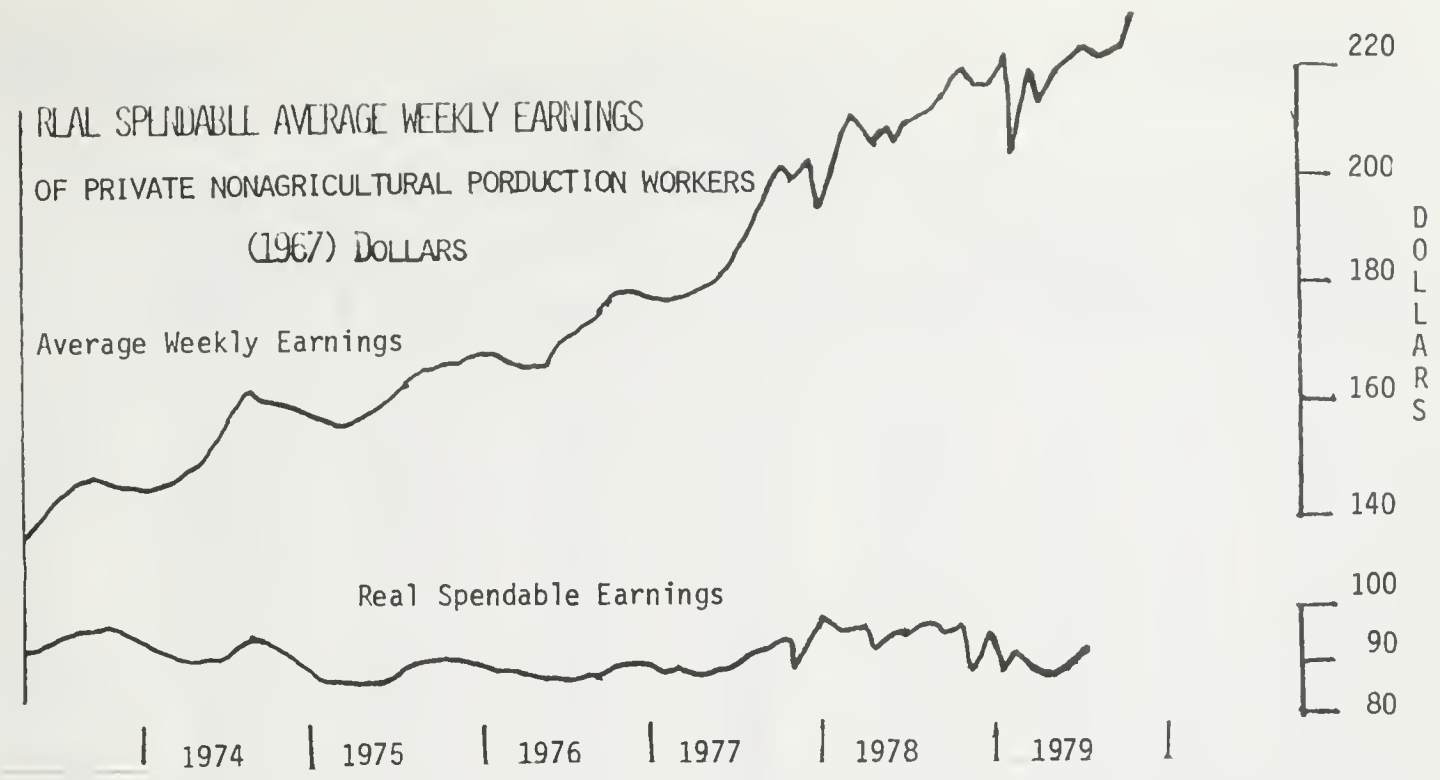
MONTANA'S COMPOSITE INDEX

Most of the components calculated into upward movements in June. Only building permits declined and average weekly initial claims remained unchanged. High interest rates and the energy shortage have reduced the demand for new housing.

The positive movements continued in June in the composite index. In comparison to last year's indicators, this year's composite index is following a strong summer months' development, but will not reach the levels of last year. Also, the decline will probably occur much earlier than last year's November falling-off of the composite index figure.

* *Employment, Average Weekly Hours, Total Accessions, and Layoffs in Manufacturing; Building Permits, and Average Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims.*

** *Indicates last month of plotted data.*



	June 1979	May 1979	June 1978
Gross Average Weekly Earnings	$236.99	225.42	216.58
Taxes Withheld	37.96	34.54	34.92
Spendable Earnings	199.02	190.88	181.66
Adjustment for Price Changes Since 1967	107.27	101.80	93.03
Real Spendable Earnings	91.75	89.08	88.63

	1) Average Weekly Earnings	2) Real Spendable Earnings
1978		
July	217.49	92.67
Aug.	214.68	91.19
Sep.	215.27	90.81
Oct.	218.40	91.15
Nov.	200.99	84.45
Dec.	217.56	89.87
1979		
Jan.	215.42	89.79
Feb.	219.57	90.19
Mar.	221.43	89.85
Apr.	220.68	88.70
May.	225.42	89.08
June	236.99	91.75
July		
Aug.		
Sep.		
Oct.		
Nov.		
Dec.		

REAL SPENDABLE EARNINGS

Real spendable earnings registered a new high for 1979. The tremendous increase in average weekly earning caused the improvement in the real spendable earning. The 5.1% increase in average weekly earnings offset the inflation increases in the consumer price index to allow a 3.0% increase in real spendable earnings.

In the preliminary report, July's average weekly earnings indicates a leveling off of the summer months increases. Inflation will continue in the next few months; thus, real spendable earnings is still projected to have a moderate decline in the next few months.

** Indicates last month of plotted data.* *p: Preliminary.*

1/Average weekly earnings of total private nonagricultural production workers

2/Real spendable average weekly earnings of private nonagricultural production workers.

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ Montana	Percent 1/ U. S.	
1977								
January	336.8	315.4	281.4	34.0	21.4	6.3	7.4	*
February	338.6	316.6	281.8	34.8	22.0	6.5	7.6	*
March	339.1	316.8	281.9	34.9	22.3	6.6	7.4	.1
April	339.8	317.5	282.0	35.5	22.3	6.6	7.1	*
May	342.4	319.3	284.4	34.9	23.1	6.7	7.1	*
June	339.5	319.8	284.8	35.0	19.7	5.8	7.1	.1
July	343.7	321.8	286.6	35.2	21.9	6.4	6.9	3.4
August	352.0	329.5	294.7	34.8	22.5	6.4	7.0	.2
September	353.1	330.4	296.3	34.1	22.7	6.4	6.8	.1
October	349.4	327.0	293.3	33.7	22.4	6.4	6.8	.4
November	350.3	328.2	294.6	33.6	22.1	6.3	6.7	.3
December	355.1	333.5	299.9	33.6	21.6	6.1	6.3	*
Avg.	345.0	323.0	288.5	34.5	22.0	6.4	7.0	.4
1978								
January	359.8	337.4	304.0	33.4	22.4	6.2	6.3	*
February	362.6	340.4	306.7	33.7	22.2	6.1	6.1	*
March	367.3	343.8	310.2	33.6	23.5	6.4	6.2	*
April	369.6	348.0	314.7	33.3	21.6	5.8	6.1	*
May	372.7	351.2	318.1	33.1	21.5	5.8	6.1	.1
June	374.8	352.8	319.8	33.0	22.0	5.9	5.8	.4
July	375.8	353.6	320.7	32.9	22.2	5.9	6.1	.2
August	371.1	349.3	316.6	32.7	21.8	5.9	5.9	.1
September	372.4	350.8	318.2	32.6	21.6	5.8	5.9	.1
October	370.6	350.0	317.4	32.6	20.6	5.6	5.8	.1
November	372.8	350.7	318.0	32.7	22.1	5.9	5.8	.1
December	370.5	347.9	315.1	32.8	22.6	6.1	5.9	.1
Avg.	370.0	348.0	315.0	33.0	22.0	6.0	6.0	.1
1979								
January	377.4	354.9	322.2	32.7	22.5	6.0	5.8	*
February	378.7	360.1	327.1	33.0	18.6	4.9	5.7	1.0
March	378.2	361.4	328.7	32.7	16.8	4.4	5.7	*
April	380.8	361.7	329.3	32.4	19.1	5.0	5.8	*
May	385.2	366.2	333.9	32.3	19.0	4.9	5.8	*
June	380.0	363.7	331.7	32.0	16.3	4.3	5.6	*
July	383.5	365.7	333.9	31.8	17.8	4.6	5.7	*
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

Table XIII

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1977								
January	32.7	30.6	29.2	1.4	2.1	6.5	6.3	*
February	32.9	30.9	29.5	1.4	2.0	6.1	6.5	*
March	32.6	30.6	29.2	1.4	2.0	6.2	6.6	*
April	32.6	30.6	29.2	1.4	2.0	6.0	6.6	*
May	32.7	30.6	29.2	1.4	2.1	6.4	6.7	*
June	32.8	31.0	29.6	1.4	1.8	5.4	5.8	*
July	33.3	31.2	29.8	1.4	2.1	6.3	6.4	.8
August	33.5	31.3	29.9	1.4	2.2	6.7	6.4	*
September	34.2	31.9	30.6	1.3	2.3	6.8	6.4	*
October	34.0	31.6	30.3	1.3	2.4	6.9	6.4	.3
November	33.9	31.8	30.5	1.3	2.1	6.3	6.3	.3
December	34.5	32.2	30.9	1.3	2.3	6.7	6.1	*
Avg.	33.3	31.2	29.8	1.4	2.1	6.4	6.4	.1
1978								
January	34.5	32.0	30.7	1.3	2.5	7.1	6.2	*
February	35.1	32.5	31.2	1.3	2.6	7.3	6.1	*
March	35.0	32.7	31.4	1.3	2.3	6.7	6.4	*
April	35.9	32.8	31.5	1.3	3.1	8.5	5.8	*
May	36.1	33.0	31.7	1.3	3.1	8.6	5.8	*
June	35.9	33.4	32.1	1.3	2.5	6.8	5.9	*
July	36.0	33.7	32.4	1.3	2.3	6.4	5.9	*
August	36.0	33.6	32.3	1.3	2.4	6.7	5.9	*
September	36.2	33.7	32.4	1.3	2.5	7.0	5.8	*
October	35.9	33.6	32.3	1.3	2.3	6.4	5.6	*
November	36.2	33.4	32.1	1.3	2.8	7.7	5.9	*
December	36.1	33.2	31.9	1.3	2.9	8.0	6.1	*
Avg.	35.6	33.2	31.9	1.3	2.4	6.8	6.0	*
1979								
January	36.2	33.5	32.2	1.3	2.7	7.4	6.0	*
February	36.1	33.8	32.5	1.3	2.3	6.3	4.9	*
March	35.3	33.4	32.3	1.3	1.9	5.4	4.4	*
April	35.8	33.7	32.4	1.3	2.1	5.8	5.0	*
May	36.2	34.2	32.9	1.3	2.0	5.6	4.9	*
June	35.5	33.7	32.4	1.3	1.8	5.1	4.3	*
July	35.3	33.2	31.9	1.3	2.1	5.8	4.6	*
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*
2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*
* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

Table XIV

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1977								
January	49.5	47.0	45.5	1.5	2.5	5.0	6.3	*
February	50.0	47.5	45.9	1.6	2.5	5.1	6.5	*
March	50.2	47.8	46.2	1.6	2.4	4.8	6.6	*
April	49.9	47.4	45.7	1.7	2.5	5.0	6.6	*
May	50.5	47.7	46.1	1.6	2.8	5.5	6.7	*
June	50.0	48.1	46.5	1.6	1.9	3.9	5.8	*
July	50.5	48.2	46.6	1.6	2.3	4.6	6.4	*
August	51.6	49.2	47.6	1.6	2.4	4.7	6.4	*
September	52.1	49.6	48.0	1.6	2.5	4.9	6.4	*
October	51.2	48.6	47.1	1.5	2.6	5.1	6.4	*
November	51.9	49.4	47.9	1.5	2.5	4.8	6.3	*
December	52.4	50.0	48.5	1.5	2.4	4.5	6.1	*
Avg.	50.8	48.4	46.8	1.6	2.4	4.8	6.4	*
1978								
January	52.7	50.1	48.6	1.5	2.6	5.0	6.2	*
February	53.2	50.7	49.1	1.6	2.5	4.8	6.1	*
March	54.1	51.2	49.6	1.6	2.9	5.4	6.4	*
April	54.2	51.8	50.2	1.6	2.4	4.4	5.8	*
May	54.2	51.7	50.2	1.5	2.5	4.7	5.8	*
June	54.1	51.7	50.2	1.5	2.4	4.4	5.9	*
July	54.1	51.7	50.2	1.5	2.4	4.4	5.9	*
August	54.0	51.6	50.1	1.5	2.4	4.5	5.9	*
September	54.7	52.3	50.8	1.5	2.4	4.4	5.8	*
October	54.2	52.1	50.6	1.5	2.1	3.8	5.6	*
November	55.1	52.3	50.8	1.5	2.8	5.2	5.9	*
December	54.1	51.5	50.0	1.5	2.6	4.9	6.1	*
Avg.	54.1	51.6	50.1	1.5	2.5	4.6	6.0	*
1979								
January	54.6	52.0	50.5	1.5	2.6	4.7	6.0	*
February	54.7	52.7	51.2	1.5	2.0	3.7	4.9	*
March	54.6	52.8	51.3	1.5	1.8	3.2	4.4	*
April	54.3	52.3	50.8	1.5	2.0	3.7	5.0	*
May	55.6	53.6	52.1	1.5	2.0	3.7	4.9	*
June	53.6	52.2	50.7	1.5	1.4	2.7	4.3	*
July	54.5	52.7	51.2	1.5	1.8	3.2	4.6	*
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers

2/ Non-additive - included in total employment.

** Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

TABLE XV

MONTANA HOURS AND EARNINGS

For Private Nonagricultural Industries

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	July 1979	June 1979	July 1978	July 1979	June 1979	July 1978	July 1979	June 1979	July 1978
TOTAL PRIVATE	233.74	236.99	217.49	37.7	36.8	36.8	6.20	6.44	5.91
MANUFACTURING	392.62	372.41	330.03	49.2	44.6	41.1	7.98	8.35	8.03
Durable Goods	343.05	384.18	325.58	43.7	45.9	40.8	7.85	8.37	7.98
Primary Metal Industries	383.15	397.29	328.10	39.5	41.0	37.2	9.70	9.69	8.82
Nondurable Goods	343.62	344.86	342.27	41.5	41.6	42.1	8.28	8.29	8.13
Food and Kindred Products	275.14	282.32	280.90	42.2	42.2	44.8	6.52	6.69	6.27
MINING	447.33	445.41	377.31	48.1	48.1	41.6	9.30	9.26	9.07
Metal Mining	439.20	439.20	420.39	36.6	36.6	39.4	12.00	12.00	10.67
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	357.54	354.06	373.11	35.4	35.3	35.1	10.10	10.03	10.63
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	339.83	332.27	304.29	42.8	41.9	40.9	7.94	7.93	7.44
Communications, Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	332.23	331.04	294.53	43.6	43.5	43.7	7.62	7.61	6.74
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	183.46	198.60	176.17	34.1	34.6	36.1	5.38	5.74	4.88
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	156.80	147.71	148.73	35.0	33.8	36.1	4.48	4.37	4.12
SERVICES	143.78	142.43	135.14	35.5	33.2	33.7	4.05	4.29	4.01

Data for current month are preliminary.
Averages are based on gross earnings, including overtime and premium pay.
Selected Industries series began January 1950; Total Private Sector series began January 1969 (May 1972 issue).
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

TABLE XVI

MONTANA LABOR TURNOVER RATES

In Manufacturing and Mining Industries

(per 100 employees)

	ACCESSION RATES						SEPARATION RATES					
	Total		New Hires		Recalls		Total		Quits		Layoffs	
	June 1979	May 1979	June 1979	May 1979	June 1979	May 1979	June 1979	May 1979	June 1979	May 1979	June 1979	May 1979
MANUFACTURING	5.0	2.7	3.9	1.5	.6	.4	1.8	3.2	1.3	1.4	.1	.6
Durable Goods	4.7	3.1	3.5	1.7	.7	.4	1.6	2.6	1.2	1.4	.1	.5
Primary Metal Industries	5.8	6.2	3.7	1.9	.3	1.6	1.6	1.8	.6	.8	0	.4
Nondurable Goods	5.5	1.9	4.8	1.3	.5	.5	2.2	4.4	1.5	1.7	.2	.8
MINING	2.8	7.9	2.2	6.7	.2	.4	3.3	2.5	2.4	.7	*	.5
Metal Mining	2.2	2.3	*	0	.8	1.2	1.9	3.2	.2	.1	*	.1

* *Less than .05.*
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Series began January 1959.

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY INDUSTRY

New business firms in Montana are a reflection of economic activity within the business community. Data furnished on this page and the following page are an aggrigate of information supplied by the office of the Montana Secretary of State and the Montana Employment Security Division. These data should in no way be construed as being absolute. They are presented to indicate business trends during the survey period.

The chart on the following page is a break-down by county and labor market area of business starts in Montana during the current month and year to date, with a comparison to the previous year. Foreign corporation classification has been added and are considered established corporations from other states registered to do business in Montana. County tabulation is not possible, only industry structure is known.

The following chart is a break-down of new businesses by industry, with a comparison to last year.

Industry	July 1979	July 1978	Year to Date 1979	Year to Date 1978
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHERIES	21	23	235	229
MINING	24	14	149	58
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	64	93	487	617
MANUFACTURING	26	18	172	149
TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, ELECTRIC GAS, AND SANITARY SERVICES	11	6	142	105
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	83	111	714	815
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	34	38	298	292
SERVICES	100	159	925	931
NON-PROFIT SERVICES	(17)	(28)	(151)	(169)
GOVERNMENT	0	0	0	0
NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	0	2	85	37
STATE TOTAL	363	464	3207	3233

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY LABOR MARKET AREA

Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS July 1979	July 1978	Year to Date 1979	1978
STATE OF MONTANA	363	464	3207	3233
GREAT FALLS SMSA	23	37	221	291
BILLINGS SMSA	52	78	519	511
FOREIGN CORPORATIONS MULTI-COUNTY	30	INA	INA	INA
ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA	23	33	201	221
Beaverhead	2	6	19	37
Deer Lodge	3	2	12	13
Granite	0	1	8	8
Madison	4	2	28	27
Powell	2	2	8	20
Silver Bow	12	20	99	166
BOZEMAN LMA	30	48	214	332
Gallatin	23	41	189	269
Meagher	1	2	5	12
Park	6	5	49	51
GLASGOW LMA	15	22	160	82
Daniels	0	0	7	3
Phillips	3	1	19	9
Roosevelt	5	5	23	27
Sheridan	3	6	25	16
Valley	4	10	23	27
GLENDIVE LMA	17	20	176	130
Dawson	6	7	43	36
Garfield	0	0	7	8
McCone	4	1	10	5
Prairie	1	0	4	7
Richland	4	12	106	71
Wibaux	2	0	6	3
HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA	8	12	88	97
Big Horn	4	5	28	31
Carbon	3	3	36	31
Stillwater	1	2	13	18
Sweet Grass	0	2	11	17

Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS July 1979	July 1978	Year to Date 1979	1978
HAVRE LMA	8	17	89	96
Blaine	1	2	13	18
Hill	5	15	63	63
Liberty	2	0	13	15
HELENA LMA	20	30	259	253
Broadwater	0	2	18	12
Jefferson	2	2	21	28
Lewis and Clark	18	26	220	213
KALISPELL LMA	52	51	406	406
Flathead	31	30	270	282
Lake	10	11	64	65
Lincoln	11	10	73	59
LEWISTOWN LMA	9	12	69	71
Fergus	5	6	41	45
Golden Valley	0	0	3	2
Judith Basin	1	1	10	4
Musselshell	0	0	9	14
Petroleum	2	0	2	2
Wheatland	1	0	4	4
MILES CITY LMA	14	16	93	90
Carter	0	1	1	7
Custer	3	10	38	41
Fallon	4	2	21	12
Powder River	3	2	6	6
Rosebud	3	1	14	23
Treasure	1	0	3	1
MISSOULA LMA	44	69	488	498
Mineral	3	2	11	12
Missoula	24	48	344	371
Ravalli	9	18	98	88
Sanders	8	1	35	27
SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA	18	19	142	155
Choteau	1	2	24	21
Glacier	8	6	36	38
Pondera	4	5	32	40
Teton	2	4	14	19
Toole	3	2	36	37

Sources of data: State of Montana Employment Security Division, Research and Analysis Section; Montana Secretary of State.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: CLAIM TO PAYMENT

Many of those persons who become separated from their jobs, enter our local Job Service offices for two reasons; to seek employment and to claim unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Claimant wage credits obtained from insured employers are examined to determine if the claim meets monetary eligibility requirements for UI benefits and, if so, for how much per week and for how many potential weeks is the claimant qualified. Monetarily eligible claims are subsequently segregated according to criteria for establishing which party (claimant or employer) was most responsible for the job separation in question. Claims for job separations resulting from claimant actions (issues) are further subjected to the test of whether or not an individual's reduction in his potential benefit duration is warranted. If otherwise eligible and if availability criteria continue to be complied with throughout his actual unemployment duration, weekly benefit payments will commence with the claimant's second week of unemployment (a waiting week must be served under the Montana Law). The number and amount of such payments by county are shown in the table on the following page. Interstate payments in the table refer to payments made to individuals who now reside in other states but who had established wage credits in Montana based employment. Amounts shown in the table are financed through employer taxes paid to the Montana UI Trust Fund Account.

ETAS-150B DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

JULY 1979

COUNTY	COUNT	AMOUNT
BEAVERHEAD	132	9,330.37
BIG HORN	217	16,180.07
BLAINE	174	13,304.10
BROADWATER	60	4,129.60
CARBON	151	12,450.00
CARTER	12	577.00
CASCADE	3,123	238,761.32
CHOUTEAU	34	2,302.78
CUSTER	135	9,008.00
DANIELS	30	1,992.00
DAWSON	139	11,029.75
DEER LODGE	789	56,327.56
FALLON	13	667.00
FERGUS	153	11,815.89
FLATHEAD	1,564	121,437.82
GALLATIN	813	64,626.35
GARFIELD	19	1,519.00
GLACIER	643	46,262.18
GOLDEN VALLEY	12	554.00
GRANITE	135	9,568.28
HILL	504	35,765.32
JEFFERSON	226	18,802.08
JUDITH BASIN	6	607.00
LAKE	592	45,279.33
LEWIS AND CLARK	1,728	140,885.10
LIBERTY	15	734.96
LINCOLN	792	57,079.44
MCCONE	0	0.00
MADISON	38	3,015.88
MEAGHER	34	2,972.00
MINERAL	71	5,073.18
MISSOULA	3,524	274,536.48
MUSSELSHELL	46	3,384.53
PARK	273	17,297.52
PETROLEUM	0	0.00
PHILLIPS	78	5,510.65
PONDERA	66	4,606.10
POWDER RIVER	11	995.00
POWELL	239	17,710.78
PRAIRIE	16	1,354.00
RAVALLI	759	53,920.78
RICHLAND	73	4,619.65
ROOSEVELT	301	20,745.64
ROSEBUD	316	25,163.21
SANDERS	277	19,356.59
SHERIDAN	9	445.00
SILVER BOW	2,705	197,726.73
STILLWATER	56	4,768.00
SWEET GRASS	0	0.00
TETON	61	4,811.64
TOOLE	80	5,397.16
TREASURE	9	436.00
VALLEY	353	25,286.14
WHEATLAND	22	1,277.84
WIBAUX	18	1,142.00
YELLOWSTONE	2,545	204,165.82
INTRASTATE	24,191	1,838,209.33
INTERSTATE	987	242,639.06
TOTAL	25,178	2,080,848.39

CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
JANUARY 1979 THRU JULY 1979

COUNTY	COUNT	AMOUNT
BEAVERHEAD	1,595	131,655.25
BIGHORN	1,925	165,296.86
BLAINE	1,277	97,197.02
BROADWATER	781	65,681.17
CARBON	1,997	182,356.93
CARTER	100	6,900.32
CASCADE	31,336	2,635,434.56
CHOUTEAU	639	49,877.90
CUSTER	2,588	223,915.15
DANIELS	190	12,827.00
DAWSON	1,483	132,330.86
DEER LODGE	6,480	539,734.99
FALLON	319	25,081.52
FERGUS	2,680	229,951.34
FLATHEAD	22,560	1,865,473.96
GALLATIN	11,097	898,014.10
GARFIELD	170	14,648.00
GLACIER	5,138	409,907.40
GOLDEN VALLEY	147	11,990.00
GRANITE	1,163	91,210.11
HILL	4,121	333,021.62
JEFFERSON	2,023	182,275.10
JUDITH BASIN	205	18,681.00
LAKE	6,192	507,381.24
LEWIS AND CLARK	16,387	1,405,616.84
LIBERTY	271	24,541.36
LINCOLN	12,210	1,044,206.80
MCCONE	135	13,221.00
MADISON	585	42,865.88
MEAGHER	560	42,560.16
MINERAL	1,830	153,552.66
MISSOULA	31,449	2,566,844.68
MUSSELSHELL	780	69,799.53
PARK	4,056	303,879.43
PETROLEUM	1	104.00
PHILLIPS	1,085	93,791.55
PONDERA	1,584	134,930.06
POWDER RIVER	169	15,973.00
POWELL	2,602	215,724.07
PRAIRIE	392	35,354.00
RAVALLI	8,326	643,779.23
RICHLAND	863	66,294.80
ROOSEVELT	2,145	155,667.39
ROSEBUD	2,201	188,050.91
SANDERS	4,166	343,101.79
SHERIDAN	230	18,593.00
SILVER BOW	18,652	1,508,957.03
STILLWATER	1,174	116,333.00
SWEET GRASS	136	10,514.85
TETON	1,203	99,284.96
TOOLE	1,640	131,836.24
TREASURE	193	15,397.96
VALLEY	2,886	227,803.53
WHEATLAND	152	10,696.14
WIBAUX	195	14,690.00
YELLOWSTONE	27,692	2,412,374.42
INTRASTATE	252,181	20,966,350.63
INTERSTATE	10,662	1,273,950.33
TOTAL	(43) 262,843	22,240,300.96

SELECTED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTIVITIES IN MONTANA

YEAR-TO-DATE

	1979	1978	Net Change	Percent Change
Initial Claims[1/]	29,468	28,032	1,436	5.1
Continued Claims[1/]	312,827	305,919	6,908	2.3
Number of Benefit Payments[1/]	262,838	246,540	16,298	6.6
Amount of Benefits Paid[1/]	$33,503,138	$19,612,617	$2,890,521	14.7
Average Weekly Benefit Amount[1/2/]	$88.44	$84.89	$3.55	4.2

MONTHLY

	July 1979	June 1979	July 1979	Change From Year Ago Net	Change From Year Ago Percent
Initial Claims[1/]	3,121	3,681	3,437	-316	-9.2
Continued Claims[1/]	31,571	27,661	27,765	3,806	13.7
Number of Benefit Payments[1/]	25,178	21,493	21,513	3,665	17.0
Amount of Benefits Paid[1/]	$2,080,848	$1,734,405	$1,645,498	$435,350	26.5
Avg. Weekly Benefit Amt[1/2/]	$85.86	$84.88	$79.78	$6.08	7.6
Trust Fund Balance	$7,572,703*	$4,677,145*	$825,753*	$6,746,950	817.1

1/ Regular Unemployment Insurance Program only.
2/ Derived according to definition in "Handbook of Unemployment Insurance Financial Data".
** Excludes Loans from Federal Government, which amount to* $10,484,089

Initial claims for July was the only category that declined from last month and last year. All other items were noticeably higher, including continued claims which totaled over 3,800 more than in June and last July. Again this month the cumulative tally of claims increased over the same period a year ago.

A comparison of number and amount of benefit payments for July and June of 1979 with July and June 1978 notes the totals for each month are reversed, with this July figures being notably larger than June, while July 1978 figures were comparably smaller than June 1978. Payments this July were also higher than last July. The year-to-date payments advanced at a slightly faster rate than last month, with a 6.6% change for number and 14.7% for amount from last year.

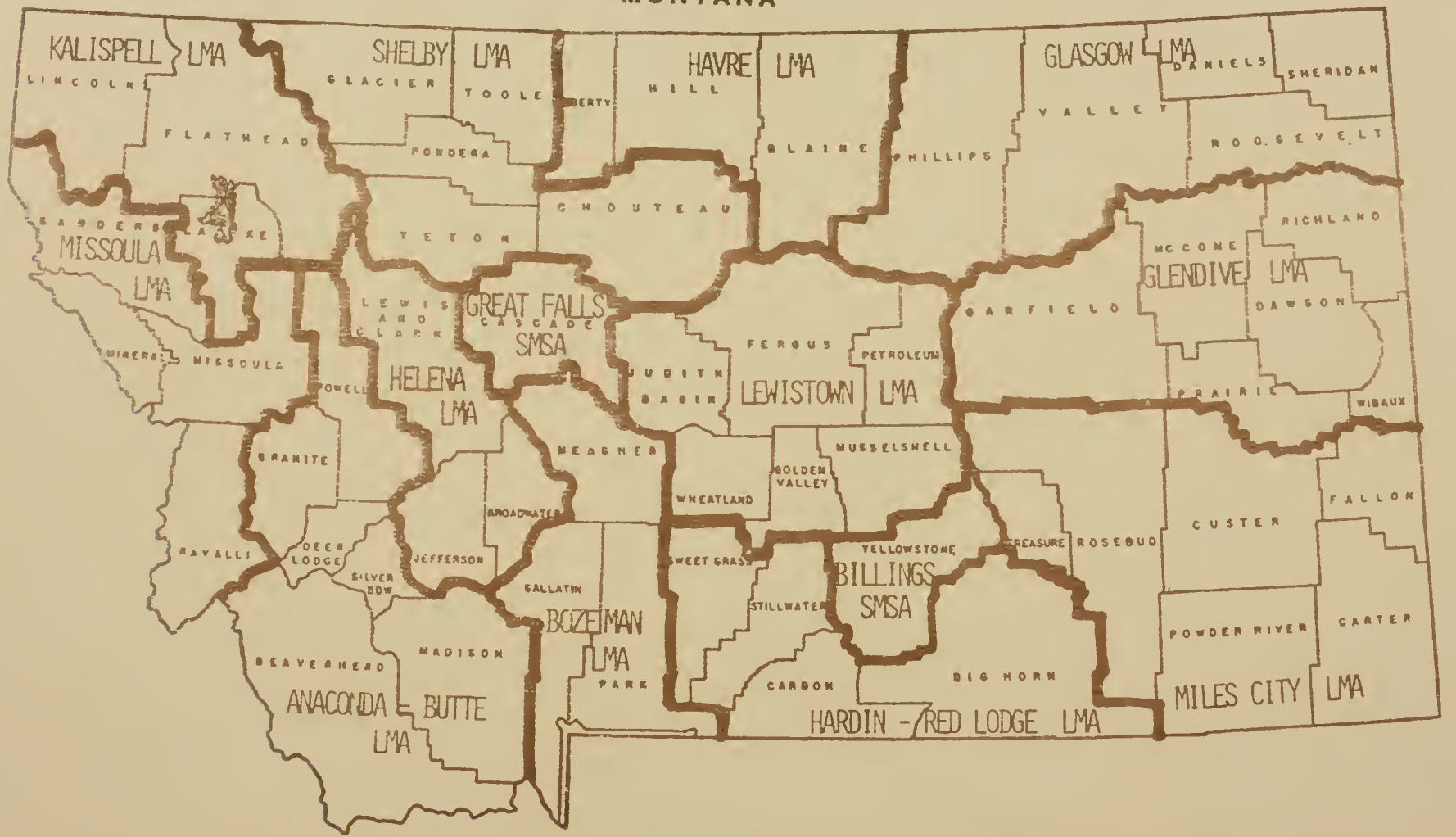
This month's Average Weekly Benefit Amount was about a dollar above last month, but six dollars more than July 1978. From January through July 1979 the AWBA continued to surpass that of the 1978 period.

The trust fund balance gained substantially this month over last month and last year, although the amount for last year was finally in the plus column. Unless there is more than the usual seasonal unemployment, the fund should not drop drastically.

LABOR MARKET AREAS

IN

MONTANA



EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

The Montana State Employment Security Division maintains 24 local Job Service Offices in the principal cities of Montana. You are invited to call on any of these offices for assistance in filling positions in your organization, additional labor market information, and for other services in connection with your employment problems.

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